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## Placing the Blame

Given a fair chance, Puerto Ricans who have made Lorain their home city will eventually solve their own problems. Many of them have already demonstrated they are industrious, thrifty people who desire to acquire homes and to give their families the same economic advantages enjoyed by their fellow American citizens.

The fact that some of the Puerto Ricans have been forced, thru ignorance of the English language, economic difficulty or misunderstanding of the ways of their new life, to reside in crowded, sub - standard buildings is certainly no compliment to Lorain.

During the time this newspaper has been printing articles by alert Journal Reporter Richard Maloy about the city's Puerto Rican colony, we have been studying the matter to determine just who is to blame for slum - like living conditions to which many of our new citizens have been subjected.

It's a difficult problem. Perhaps the city government and welfare agencies have been somewhat negligent. But after mulling over this and other possibilities, we inevitably return to the conclusion that the real culprit is the National Tube company.

The Tube company, as related in one of The Journal's articles, brought Puerto Ricans here as laborers four years ago. At first, the new workers lived in company - owned dormitories. During that period the company provided recreational facilities, classes in English and other useful accommodations.

That was a good start. But the workers were encouraged to find their own living quarters, and when the dormitories had been cleared the company dropped its program of recreation and education for the Puerto Ricans.

From a cold - blooded dollars and cents outlook, that might be regarded as good business. But from the standpoint of civic obligation and fair play, the company's responsibility did not end when the dormitories were emptied. The company needed the Puerto Rican workers, brought them here, and then blandly washed its hands of the problems created by the migration.

Actions of that nature lead the average man in the street to think there is really a basis of truth in muttered remarks about "soulless" corporations whose distant owners have no interest in communities where their plants are located.